

**Deadly Mexico pipeline  
blast** pg 2

**Stern Motors' "Toys for Joy"  
raffle drawing** pg 5

**December is AIDS  
awareness month**



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**Monday, December 20, 2010**

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Dengue patients must report to laboratory and not to First Aid Emergency Center

Many these days are heading to the First Aid Emergency Center at the Hospital for testing to ascertain whether or not they have contracted Dengue. The number of people with Dengue symptoms appearing at the Center to check has increased since Minister Richard Visser's speech at the meeting with Doctors and Specialists on the ultimate developments of the Dengue on Aruba.

The Department of Public Health is giving everyone notice that all after hours request by any Doctor to do an urgent blood check for Dengue, must be done only at the Hospital's laboratory. To reach the laboratory, patients may use the main hospital entrance or at



**Dr. Derek-Ian Blok**

night, at the usual night entrance. Hence, there is no reason to go to the First Aid Emergency Center.

Weekend hours of the Hospital's Lab are from 9 am to 11 am. For persons in San Nico-

laas, it is possible to do all blood testing at the IMSAN in the weekend as well.

It is also important to inform that the Lab will send all test results directly to the attending physician and those patients need not wait for these results at the Hospital or IMSAN. If necessary the attending physician or IMSAN will contact the patient directly.

This measure will alleviate the sudden rush of patients coming to the Hospital for blood testing and allow First Aid Emergency staff to attend to those needing emergency medical assistance, which many times are life-threatening situations.

## George Krueel is surprised about how special he is to Aruba



**George and Carolyn**

**See story on page 4**

## Local artists preparing for "Double Dutch" in Washington

ORANJESTAD -- During her visit to Washington at the beginning of the year, Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar was informed by Mr. Renwick Heronimo about a special art project between Holland, Washington and Aruba. This project, dubbed "Double Dutch" is scheduled to take place in 2011. The project is under the auspices of the husband of the Dutch Ambassador in Washington DC and Arthur Kibbelaar, General Counsel for Cultural Affairs in New York.

For the realization of this historic project, Gijs Stork, Laura and Renwick Heronimo, wife of Minister Plenipotentiary for Aruba, Jocelyne Heronimo Croes paid a visit to Aruba.

Why is this called an historic project for Aruba? Simply because this is the very first time that an exposition will be held in the residence of the Ambassador in Washington and which will be open to the general public!

*Continued on page 3*

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**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## 'Rivers of fire' in deadly Mexico pipeline blast

PUEBLA, Mexico (AFP) - A massive blast yesterday along a state-owned pipeline in central Mexico killed 22 people, injured 32 others and engulfed dozens of homes in a raging inferno, officials said.

Puebla state secretary Valentin Meneses said the pre-dawn explosion occurred along the Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) pipeline in the town of Texmelucan, where thieves were trying to steal fuel. Early indications suggested it was caused by a perforation of the pipeline during the attempted theft.

"A criminal gang punctured the pipeline of state-owned Pemex, which spilled fuel out of control because of the high degree of pressure," said Meneses. "The streets began to flood, then came a spark and we saw rivers of fire in the streets."

Some 83 homes were partially damaged and 32 were

completely destroyed in the blaze, according to Meneses, who noted that emergency crews had managed to bring the flames under control. Officials had initially reported that at least 11 people were killed.

A sweeping cloud of thick black smoke hung over dozens of kilometers of the pipeline and people rushed from their homes for safety. The flames were so hot they bent wrought iron caging, shattered glass windows and doors and reduced several cars to smoldering metal shells.

Leafless trees, scorched and twisted, reached upward from the smoking earth, and firemen shoveled a thick coat of ash that littered the streets.

Among the victims, five children and an entire family were caught by surprise by the explosion as they slept in their home. The ash-covered bodies of four other victims lay inside a burnt-out house.

Hundreds of people were told to leave their homes and

move to shelters as emergency workers fought a raging fire. Officials worried the fuel may have spilled into the nearby Atoyac River.

Smoke could be seen as far as the city of Puebla, the state capital, located some 32 kilometers (20 miles) from Texmelucan. Emergency officials said the blast broke windows and burned dozens of cars in a three-kilometer (two-mile) radius.

Locals said criminal gangs operate drilling machinery and sell stolen fuel to truck drivers passing through roads in the region.

Rescue workers, firefighters and Mexican Army soldiers were deployed to the region to respond to the emergency.

Pemex experts also arrived on site to help determine the cause of the explosion.

The company issued a statement saying the blast was caused by "fire on two pipelines," whose fuel supply was immediately cut off.

## Gay US soldiers must still hold fire on sexuality

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US lawmakers have voted to allow gays to serve openly in the military for the first time, but troops must wait months before they can reveal their sexual orientation without facing dismissal.

Amid concerns over unit cohesion at a time when the United States is still embroiled in Afghanistan and Iraq, senior officials want a deliberate process to ensure the smoothest possible transition.

Several Republicans joined Democrats to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a 1993 law enacted under Bill Clinton's administration as a compromise from an outright ban on gays and lesbians

serving in the US military.

Saturday's vote, which capped two weeks of bitterly divisive debate, marked for some the biggest shift in the US military since racial integration began in 1948.

When Obama signs the measure into law in the coming days, he will launch a White House and Pentagon certification process that could take up to a year.

Obama, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen must now certify that lifting the ban can be done without harming military readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruitment.

## Europe pays tribute to 'father of the Euro' Padoa-Schioppa



ATHENS, Greece (AFP) - European leaders yesterday paid tribute to Italy's former economy minister Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa, a founding father of the euro who had been acting as adviser to the Greek government. Padoa-Schioppa was dining with friends in a palace in the centre of Rome late Saturday when he collapsed with heart failure and died in hospital shortly afterwards. He was 70.

## Haiti cholera toll passes 2,500

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) - Haiti's cholera toll has passed 2,500, official figures showed yesterday, dashing hopes the fatality rate might be beginning to taper off.

The health ministry listed 2,535 deaths since the outbreak in the impoverished Caribbean nation erupted in mid-October. Almost 57,000 of the 114,497 people infected have been treated in hospital.

Hopes rose last week that the death rate could be slowing as less than 30 people were shown to have died on two consecutive days.

Those hopes were dashed yesterday as the earlier tolls were amended and 54 people were shown to have died on December 14, the most recent day recorded. At the outbreak's peak in November there were daily tolls of 60, 70 and even

80 and above.

The cholera outbreak, Haiti's first in more than a century, spawned deadly anti-UN riots last month as a desperate populace turned its anger on international peacekeepers accused of bringing the disease into the country.

The Nepalese army has reacted angrily and said there is no evidence to support allegations the cholera emanated from septic tanks at their base in the Artibonite river valley, where the majority of cases and deaths have been.

The United Nations has said it will name an international panel to investigate the origin of the epidemic.

A team of US and Haitian researchers confirmed last week that the outbreak was likely sparked by a human source from outside the region.

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## Department of Medicine Inspections moves

ORANJESTAD – The Department of Medicine Inspections announced that as of today, December 20, it will relocate from offices in San Nicolas to the Codemsa Building at Cumana 69.

Due to the move, offices will be closed to the public today, tomorrow and Wednesday, December 20, 21 and 22; for today, only emergency cases will be attended.

Tomorrow and Wednesday, only customer issues regarding Single Administrative Documents, SAD, which are also referred as form C88 will receive attention on the first floor of the new premises.

Management of the Department of Medicine Inspection apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

## Announcement of Department of Labor

ORANJESTAD -- The Department of Labor, DAO, announces to all employers that Staff declaration forms are now available at its offices. Based on article 3, subsection 1, sub C of the Labor Law (A 1989 no.GT6); all employers must submit this form between January 15, and March 31, 2011.

For this year there is a change in delivery. The forms can be obtained by downloading the Government's website [www.gobierno.aw](http://www.gobierno.aw) or [www.overheid.aw](http://www.overheid.aw), or coming to pick them up at any of the DAO offices.

All forms must be submitted at the Department of Labor.

Even when submitting the forms digitally, the original version must still be submitted at the Department of Labor. The Department will be stamping the forms as proof of delivery. Each form must be filled out completely and will be thoroughly checked and controlled when submitted.

The Department of Labor opening hours is Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The offices are situated at L.G. Smith Boulevard 135, tel. 583-7720

For any inquiries please contact Ms. Xiomara Ras at [xiomara.ras@aruba.gov.aw](mailto:xiomara.ras@aruba.gov.aw)

## IDEFRE offices are closed December 20, 2010 to January 3, 2011

ORANJESTAD – IDEFRE, Aruba's institute for educational and physical recreation and sports, announces its main offices situated on the second floor of the Certified Mega Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard 150 and its branch, the Sports Centrum San Nicolas, on Dr. Schaepmanstraat 52, are closed as of today, December 20, until Monday, January 3, 2011. The offices will open again on Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

IDEFRE thanks the many

volunteers who assisted during the scores of events over the year 2010. IDEFRE administrators express their gratitude to Government services and NGO's for their support and collaboration for the many activities throughout 2010, as well.

IDEFRE wishes all its volunteers, sportsmen, athletes and the Aruban community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, with all the best for the year 2011.

## Local artists preparing . . .

Continued from page 1

In addition, it will be the first time that a few Aruban artists will have the honor of participating in such an event together with Dutch artists.

Alice van Romondt, counsel to Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar met with the three curators to plan the details for their involvement in this significant project. Gijs

Stork met with the three Aruban curators and he was impressed with the positive developments with respect to contemporary art taking place in Aruba after his visit some 14 years ago.

The need for a Museum of Modern Art for Aruba was also amply discussed by these art professionals.



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## Commemorative book on 25th Anniversary of Aruba's Apart Status

ORANJESTAD -- On January 1st 2011 Aruba celebrates her 25th anniversary of Apart Status within the Dutch Kingdom. It was 25 years ago that Aruba inaugurated her new status... better known as Status Aparte (Papiamentu) at midnight January 1st 1986.

As part of the activities planned to celebrate this milestone in Aruba's history, the government has charged a commission with the task of producing a commemorative book which would highlight much of what took place within departments leading up to and after Status Aparte.

With the coming of Status Aparte several new departments and government services were born, such as Central Bank, Technical Inspection, LAR Department, Office of Intellectual Property, Department of External Affairs,

DIMAS and several others. Other services were integrated, like, the Office of Finances, Information Service, Education, etc. Many departments were forced to expand their services as the economy of the island grew.

Not only were there new departments and changes in governmental departments, but also non-governmental organizations were either added or reformed. Organizations such as UNOCA, CEDE, Olympic Committee and others were added or reorganized to provide the necessary social, cultural and sportsmanship development of the island.

The commemorative book should reflect how the various governmental departments evolved 25 years ago, their particular accomplishments and management and a view of the future. The government is

calling on all those who shared in the realization of our Status Aparte to lend their support to this book project.

Members of the commission are, Alice van Romondt, Des Croes, Win Rutgers and Nilda Koolman. For specific information on the submission of articles and digital photos, contact should be made with Nilda Koolman at the Government's Information Services via email.

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# George Krue is surprised about how special he is to Aruba!

Long-time visitor Carolyn Pollock of Pennsylvania, who began visiting Aruba annually over 30 years ago, together with her mother and aunt shared their lives with the island and became deeply involved with it in many ways. They were all honored as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill, and at the parties Carolyn arranged to

celebrate these landmark events, they always had several individuals from the local community as guests, as it was their nature to befriend all they met on Aruba.

Carolyn's aunt and mother are gone, but over ten years ago she met George Krue, whom she soon converted into another Aruba addict with whom she could share her time



on the island she adored. Their relationship was such with Aruba they even received a special permission to be married at the Santa Ana Church in Noord by the local Diocese, performed by dear friend Father Rene Villamora; this is a rare privilege extended to anyone who is not a full-time island resident.

Their 2010 visit marked George's 10th consecutive year of coming to Aruba, and Carolyn dedicated a great deal of her time to guarantee his honoring as a Distinguished Visitor would be a night to remember, and most importantly, a total surprise.

"I never saw this coming for moment," confessed George, after Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ricardo Croes showed up at their favorite restaurant, La Vista in the Marriott Resort, to award him his framed certificate. "I just thought this was another honoring for Carolyn, as I have seen her celebrate so many special occasions on Aruba with the friends we have made here. Not until I saw my name on the certificate did I realize this was all for me; I'm still stunned."

George didn't suspect a thing when his Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Janet showed up at the door of their home in Palma Real two days prior at 11:00 p.m. at night, even though he was wondering why Carolyn had fixed up the spare bedroom. He just thought they got some discount tickets from their daughter who works for American Airlines and decided to surprise them and escape the cold for a few days.

Believing they were just coming to La Vista to enjoy the Saturday night Seafood Buffet, he expressed great pleasure as special friends Antonio Leo and his wife Lillian appeared, again, never imagining it was to celebrate his moment in the limelight. As their favorite servers and housekeeping help from the Marriott, Vangie, Annie, Lucia and Miriam marched in, and popular local entertainer Etty Toppenberg appeared to serenade their guests, he realized this was way more than a quiet dinner

for four, but still, as is his nature, he never imagined it was for him.

Beloved friends Ciriaco and Lucy Erasmus, Andres and Mica Rasmijn, and Father Rene were all present to witness George's surprise. Antonio, a veteran of the ATA, also produced the newly issued Aruba logo pin, which will officially debut in 2011, and was proud to see George the first to be awarded this memento of high regard on behalf of Aruba's official tourism entity.

The Marriott and La Vista staff, headed by manager Weibe de Roos, also demonstrated their regard for George and Carolyn with a stunning cake

specially produced by their chef. "I still can't believe it," George reiterated, as Carolyn's labors to provide a truly memorable celebration lasted well past dinner time, with guests reluctant to leave. For all, but especially George, it was a truly lovely night to remember, but considering it was arranged by a master party planner, this is no surprise at all!

by Rosalie Klein

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## Winners of the "Toys for Joy" holiday campaign from Stern Motors announced



**Used Car Rep Moises Ramos picks the winners with Khayri Helinger and Christiaan Roman**

Stern Motors, distributors of Chevrolet on Aruba ended their "Toys for Joy" campaign to provide holiday cheer for needy children with the raffle drawing at the close of the business day on Saturday, December 18. Used Car



**David Theysen with the prize car and another filled with toys**

Representative Mario Ramos was joined by youngsters Khayri Helinger and Christiaan Roman in pulling the winners names from among those who had purchased toys to be distributed to island children. The toys are for all ages and will bring holiday cheer to local centers for youth from troubled homes, such as Imeldahoff

and Cas Cuna, and special foundations for the mentally and physically challenged Sonrisa and FEPO, for the hearing impaired.

"We had a wonderful response and are very grateful to the community for participating in this effort," stated Stern Motors Directing Manager David Theysen. "We have, we believe, 500 or more gifts to give out, they

completely fill up two cars, including the grand raffle prize of a 2011 Chevrolet Spark LT. "There will be a lot of happy faces among these youngsters who likely would not have enjoyed the holiday all that much."

Three very happy faces will belong to Francisca van Esta, who won the car, and Elsy Toppenberg and Herbert Croes, who each won an iPad

and iPod Touch, respectively. The winners will claim their rewards for their community spirit and generosity at Stern's just before they close for the holiday. It will be a very Merry Christmas in Aruba for underprivileged children and three lucky winners this year, thanks to Stern Motors and Chevrolet!

by Rosalie Klein

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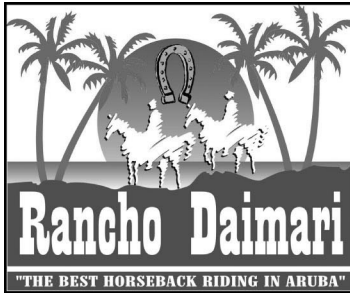
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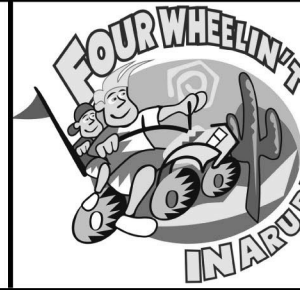
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## Sci-Tech

### Firefox backs "do not track" with online stealth



MOUNTAIN VIEW, California (AFP) — As concern about online privacy grows, Mozilla is promising to let people cloak Internet activity in free Firefox Web browsing software being released early next year.

"Technology that supports something like a 'Do Not Track' button is needed and we will deliver in the first part of next year," Mozilla chief executive Gary Kovacs said while providing a glimpse at Firefox 4 at the Mozilla's headquarters in Mountain View, California.

"The user needs to be in control," he added.

There is a disturbing imbalance between what websites need to know about visitors to personalize advertisements or services and the amount of data collected, according to Kovacs.

"It is not that ads are bad," he said. "It is what they do with my tracked behavior."

"Where I go on the Internet is how I live my life; that is a lot of data to hold just for someone to serve me ads."

Microsoft this month unveiled increased privacy options for the upcoming version of its popular Web browser Internet Explorer 9 (IE9) including a feature "to help keep third-party websites from tracking your Web behavior."

Microsoft said "Tracking Protection" will be built into a test version of IE9 being released early next year.

IE9 users will have to be savvy enough to activate the feature and create lists of the third-party websites that they do not want to track their behavior.

Internet Explorer is the most widely used Web browser in the United States followed by Mozilla's Firefox, Google's Chrome and

Apple's Safari.

Google, which beefed up Chrome in recent weeks and is testing a notebook computer that operates on the Web browser software, cautioned that the mechanics and ramifications of stealth browsing need to be figured out.

"The idea of 'Do Not Track' is interesting, but there doesn't seem to be consensus on what 'tracking' really means, nor how new proposals could be implemented in a way that respects people's current privacy controls," said the company, also based in Mountain View.

"We look forward to ongoing dialogue about what 'Do Not Track' could look like, and in the meantime we are always looking into new tools to give people more transparency and control over their online privacy."

## Sperm whales show signs of toxic contamination

The skin and blubber of sperm whales from across the Pacific Ocean carry evidence of exposure to a class of toxic pollutants, with whales living around the Galapagos Islands showing the strongest signs of exposure, according to a new study.

"This is the first time this kind of pollution study has been done on a whole ocean level using a threatened species as a sentinel species," said Celine Godard-Coding, the lead researcher and an environmental toxicologist at Texas Tech University.

Sperm whales can live up to 70 years, feeding on squid, fish and octopus. Males of the species can grow up to 60 feet (18 meters) long. As large, long-lived carnivores, they can accumulate pollutants in their body fat.

The team took small tissue samples from 234 sperm whales in five regions in the tropical and subtropical Pacific Ocean and looked for an enzyme that breaks down a class of chemicals called aromatic hydrocarbons. These include harmful pollutants like dioxins, PCBs and a group called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

PAHs are produced during the incomplete burning of coal, oil, gas and other organic substances. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PAHs may cause cancer, as well as reproductive, skin and immune system problems.

While they detected the enzyme in all the sperm whales, the levels were found to be the highest in whales from the Galapagos. But this doesn't mean there are elevated pollutants near the

Galapagos, she cautioned — rather, it is a warning sign.

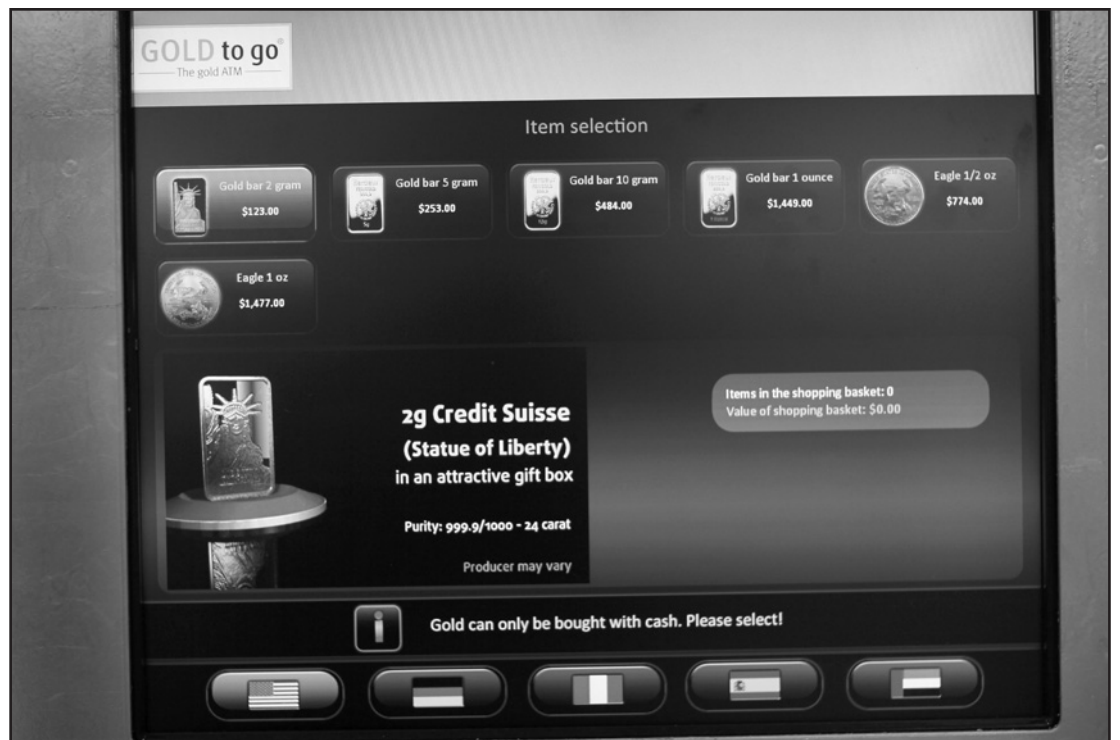
"What we have to keep in mind when we think of ocean health is that contaminants are transported by atmospheric currents and ocean currents all the time," Godard-Coding said. "There is not a pristine area in the world."

And because PAHs have many sources — wildfires and volcanoes can also create them — presence of the enzyme does not necessarily

mean that the animal has come into contact with man-made pollutants, Godard-Coding cautioned.

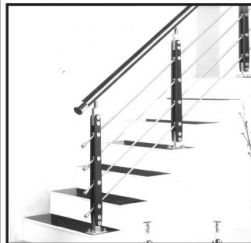



This makes the implications of the high levels of enzyme activation found in the whales near the Galapagos ambiguous.

"The next step is really what does that mean," she said. "It could mean a higher exposure to contaminants elevated (the biomarker), but we don't know that for sure."



The prices of gold for sale are displayed on the screen of the GOLD to go vending machine setup at Boca Raton's Town Center Mall on December 17, 2010 in Boca Raton, Florida. The machine is the first one to be installed in the United States and it gives people the ability to purchase gold bars and coins from the machine with prices being updated in real time. (AFP photo)

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**Health & Living****Holidays with clan ideal for investigating family health history**

When your relatives get together over the holidays, it may be a good opportunity to investigate your family history, including its health history, suggests a genetics expert.

Talk to your grandparents and great-grandparents and make detailed notes about what they tell you about the health of their immediate family -- parents, siblings and children. Record names, birth dates, year of death and any health problems experienced by those people, said Lynn Holt, director of the School of Health Professions Genetic Counseling program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"The holidays are a great time to collect your family history. Most people don't know much about the family history beyond their first-degree relatives, their own parents and siblings," Holt said in a university news release.

Ask your older relatives if any of their siblings died during childhood and, if so, why? This type of information can be valuable.

"We sometimes hear people say they've been told their mother's brother dropped dead at age 20, for example," Holt said. "It's important to find out why; was it because of a genetic heart condition that you might have inherited, or is it simply that brother was guilty of some accident that nobody wants to talk about?"

The best way to glean this type of information is to speak individually with each older relative. Many would welcome the opportunity to share the family history and memories of deceased loved ones, Holt said.

Once you have your family health history, share it with your doctor in order to determine if you need to undergo evaluation for certain conditions.

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## Cheers! Red Wine, Cranberries are good for your teeth

When you pop open that bottle of red wine this holiday season, consider toasting its benefits to your teeth. After all, compounds in red wine can prevent cavities and plaque build-up, researchers say.

The compounds - called polyphenols - block a molecule made by the bacteria streptococcus mutans, which are found in all our mouths, said researcher Hyun Koo, a

microbiologist at University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.

Normally, these bacteria break down sugar we eat and make sticky molecules called glucans, which let bacteria to cling to our teeth and damage their surfaces, Koo said.

These bacteria also produce an acid that erodes the tooth enamel, leading to cavities, he said.

But the fermented grape stems, seeds and skins left over from wine production contain high amounts of polyphenols. The polyphenols can block the ability of S. mutans to make glucans, letting the good bacteria in the mouth thrive, while disabling the bad bacteria from sticking to the teeth, Koo said.

Koo, who was a dentist for two years before becoming a

microbiologist, also found that compounds in cranberries work similarly - they block the molecules that enable the sticky surface to form on our teeth.

But Koo warned that eating heaps of cranberry sauce or downing glass after glass of red wine won't help you reap the dental benefits of these compounds. Cranberry products, such as cranberry

sauce or cranberry juice cocktail, contain a lot of sugar and aren't good for the teeth, and red wine can stain the teeth, he said.

Instead, Koo and his colleagues hope to find a way to add these compounds to mouthwashes, toothpastes or chewing gum to combat plaque and cavities. He hopes to test the findings in a clinical setting in the next four years.



# Savor holiday season the island way at

**NICKY**  
BEACH  
ARUBA



There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally found it with the opening of the Nikky Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when

visiting Aruba. New owner Hans and his GM Lub have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while providing a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

The official arrival of holiday season has a number of company party planners scrambling at the last minute for a venue for their end of the year festivities; if you have a group to small for the larger resorts and are looking for a unique and charming location with an expert gourmet chef, the new Nikky Beach will very

likely come to the rescue. Contact Lub to arrange a customized holiday party for your group to fit your budget, including free-flowing mimosas.

This month they are hosting a number of special public parties on Saturday nights, starting with the 10th anniversary bash of the I LUV MUZIKA group this coming Saturday, December 4, which should be a blast. Until arrival of Christmas there will be more such events, and they will crown their month with a special holiday dinner on December 25 and 26.

Hans and Lub have dubbed Sunday's at Nikky Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the traditional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

When first investigating Nikky Beach we discovered extremely interesting items on the menu at very moderate prices; their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that re-



veals expertise in several notable cuisines coupled with a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One last interesting tidbit: Lub explained they offer a customized Departure Day Package that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal, drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing

rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Lub. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: [www.nickybeach-aruba.com](http://www.nickybeach-aruba.com).

by Rosalie Klein

## Glass exhibit "ELEMENTS"

### Three interpretations in glass in the Westin Aruba Art Gallery



The last days before Christmas, Marcha Hoost, Marian Abath and Deborah de Weerd will exhibit glass art, such as small objects, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, etc.

The opening will be on December 21, at 8 p.m.. The exhibit will be open on December 22 and 23 from 4 till 9 p.m.

Deborah (Debby) de Weerd studied Visual Communication and Textile Design at the Art Academy for in Maastricht, The Netherlands. After completing her studies, she did design work for textile and furniture manufacturers, including Forbo Tapijt BV (now Ennia Carpets) where she was responsible for design, development and showcasing the products.

In 2002 Deborah founded

'loretti," an independent consultancy firm in the area of textile design, which developed into a successful business venture.

After relocating to Aruba in 2005, Deborah discovered the art of lamp working. Her often experimental work is inspired by her knowledge of color and detail. She continuously searches for new ways to apply and shape glass, using an eclectic variety of materials, color and form in her designs.

Marian Abath is trained as an educational scientist and started working with glass out of curiosity and to support her husband in his activities. It turned into a major change in the direction of her life. She



took intensive courses at The Glass Furnace in Istanbul, Turkey, and did summer courses at Stipglas in the Netherlands. She learned the basics of glass blowing at Urban Glass in New York. In her jewelry design she incorporates various kinds of glass, including discarded glass. Her style is pure, quiet and timeless. Nature in general, but also the nature of the material itself, gives her directions in her work.

A couple of years ago she started giving workshops in her private studio, the first in Aruba. Marian loves sharing her knowledge and experience during the workshops, opening a new world to others as it did to her.

Marcha Hoost is trained as a teacher. She has a taste for color, inspired by her roots, that is directly influencing her work. The material and colors fascinate her. She started taking courses glass bead making at Terrafuse in 2007. Before that, she experimented with

different ways of expression, among them interior design and textiles.

She found her own style and dynamic with glass; big solid glass beads, mixing warm colors and with repeating patterns, preferably put together in colliers purely made from glass beads. Her inspiration for colors and patterns come from historical beads, as well as from nature; the design in the wings of butterflies and birds, and of flowers, etc.

The exhibit is freely accessible at the aforementioned times in the Westin Aruba Art Gallery. You are most welcome.



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## Amazing Spectacle: Total Lunar Eclipse tonight

For a few hours on the night of tonight to tomorrow, the attention of tens of millions of people will be drawn skyward, where the mottled, coppery globe of our moon will hang completely immersed in the long, tapering cone of shadow cast out into space by our Earth.

If the weather is clear, favorably placed skywatchers will have a view of one of nature's most beautiful spectacles: a total eclipse of the moon.

Unlike a total eclipse of

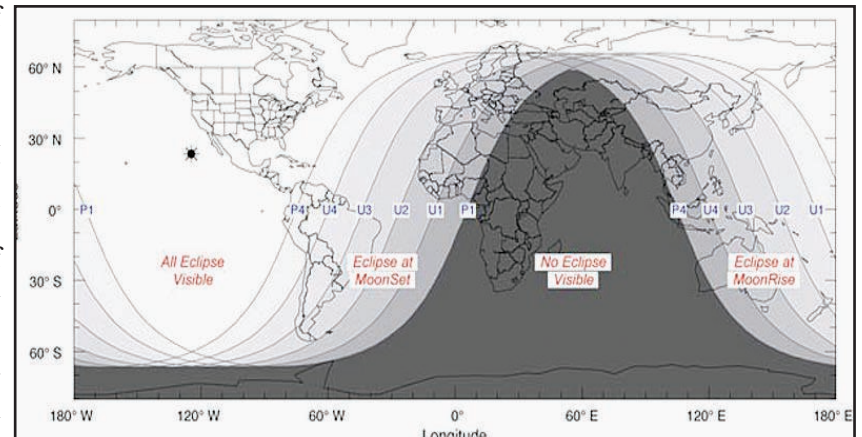
the sun, which is only visible to those in the path of totality, eclipses of the moon can usually be observed from one's own backyard. The passage of the moon through the Earth's shadow is equally visible from all places within the hemisphere where the moon is above the horizon.

The total phase of the upcoming event will be visible across all of North and South America, as well as the northern and western part of Europe, and a small part of northeast Asia, including

Korea and much of Japan.

Totality will also be visible in its entirety from the North Island of New Zealand and Hawaii — a potential viewing audience of about 1.5 billion people.

This will be the first opportunity from any place on earth to see the moon undergo a total eclipse in 34 months.



This NASA lunar eclipse chart shows how visible the eclipse will be from different regions around the world.

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## COMICS



## calvin and hobbes

by NEWMAN

and Santa, if I get any lords a-leaping or geese a-laying, you've had it.



HMM... THAT MIGHT NOT BE POLITE.



I'M GETTING NERVOUS ABOUT CHRISTMAS.



YOU'RE WORRIED YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GOOD?

THAT'S JUST THE QUESTION. IT'S ALL RELATIVE. WHAT'S SANTA'S DEFINITION? HOW GOOD DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO QUALIFY AS GOOD?



I HAVEN'T KILLED ANYBODY. SEE, THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT? I HAVEN'T COMMITTED ANY FELONIES. I DIDN'T START ANY WARS. I DON'T PRACTICE CANNIBALISM.

WOULDN'T YOU SAY THAT'S PRETTY GOOD? WOULDN'T YOU SAY I SHOULD GET LOTS OF PRESENTS?



BUT MAYBE GOOD IS MORE THAN THE ABSENCE OF BAD.

SEE, THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME.



OK, ASSUMING I CAN GET AN OVERNIGHT LETTER TO THE NORTH POLE, WHAT WOULD YOU CHARGE TO WRITE ME A GLOWING CHARACTER REFERENCE?

OH NO, I'M NOT GOING TO PERJURE MYSELF FOR YOU! MY RECORDS CLEAN!



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

1. Revolve
5. Mineral spring
8. Scram!
12. To \_\_\_\_:  
2 wds.
13. Peach seed
14. Designer Chanel
15. Spar
16. Word games
18. That girl
19. Annoy
20. Appraises
21. Chip
23. Rim
24. Pin-up Grable
26. Put up
27. Cushion
30. Affirmative votes
31. Milk source
32. Cornbread
33. Crimson
34. Slice
35. Horse height
36. Lid
37. Lock
38. Let down
41. Set of tools
42. Grease
45. Improving
47. Cream \_\_\_\_
48. Thaw
49. Zodiac lion

## 50. Entangle

## 51. Finishes

## 52. Permit

## 53. \_\_\_\_ of Man

## DOWN

1. Scottish hats
2. The Beehive State
3. Took offense at
4. Earn
5. Flicker
6. In the \_\_\_\_
7. One \_\_\_\_  
time: 2 wds.
8. Fragment
9. Paint

## 10. Climax

## 11. Mix salad

## 17. Smirk

## 19. Slippery

## 22. \_\_\_\_ a boy!

## 23. Statute

## 24. Exclude

## 25. Needle hole

## 26. Camp bed

## 27. Aircraft floats

## 28. In addition

## 29. \_\_\_\_ Moines

## 31. Glass

## 32. Chum

## 34. Heavy string

## 35. Fiery

## 36. Canvas shelters

## 37. Intolerant person

## 38. Gold fabric

## 39. Sign

## 40. Attach

## 41. Leg joint

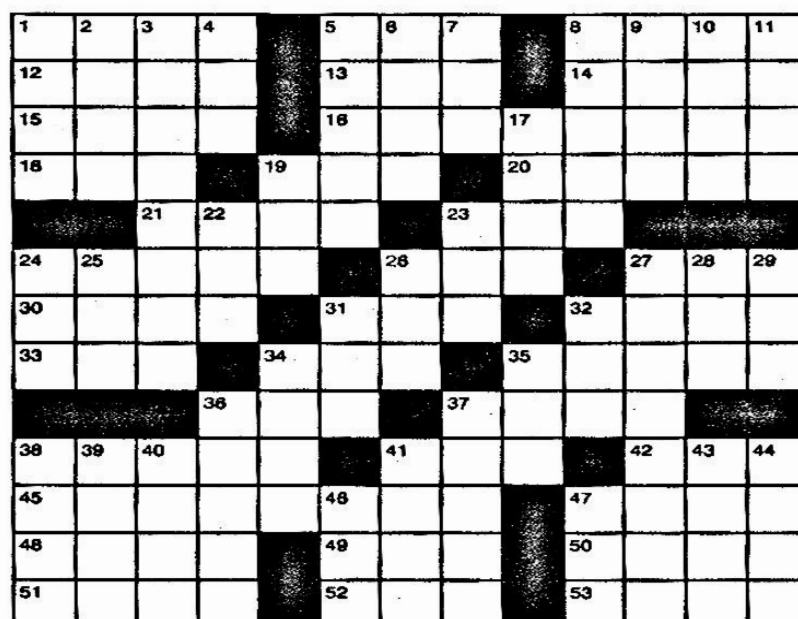
## 43. Favorite

## 44. Tardy

## 46. Unhealthy

## 47. Slalom

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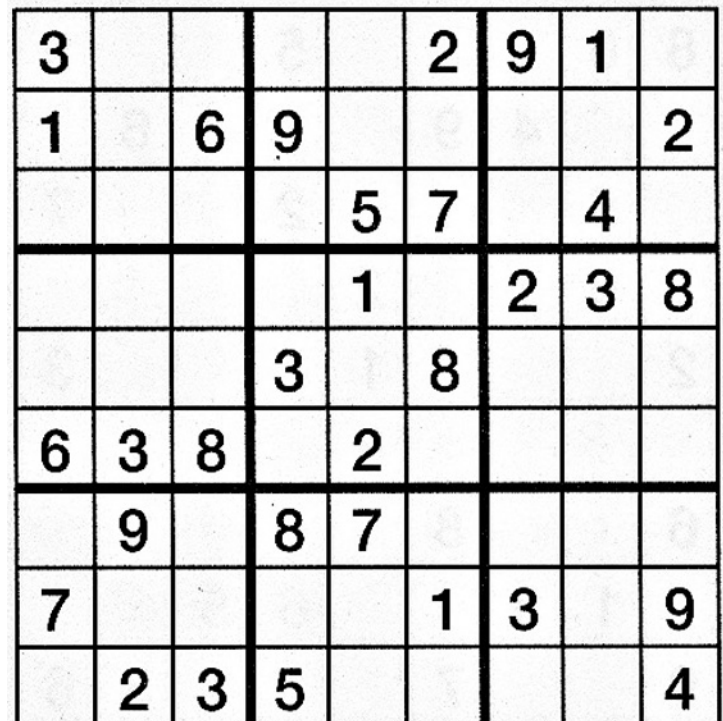
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## Sudoku



## SOLUTION

4	7	1	6	9	5	8	2	3
6	8	3	1	4	2	9	7	5
9	2	5	8	7	1	6	4	3
1	6	2	9	7	4	8	3	5
5	9	4	8	6	3	7	1	2
8	3	7	9	1	2	6	5	4
3	7	9	2	4	1	5	8	6
2	5	8	4	6	9	1	3	7
7	1	6	2	8	9	4	5	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.





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## Finance



TEHRAN, Iran -- An Iranian man pumps gasoline into his car at a petrol station in Tehran. Iranian petrol prices surged four-fold as the government started scrapping subsidies as part of a long-awaited overhaul of the economy, despite staunch opposition from conservatives. (AFP PHOTO)



Iweala (R) address media at a press conference in Colombo.

The World Bank said it has opened another lending window for Sri Lanka thanks to the improved credit worthiness of the war-ravaged island.

The Washington-based bank's Managing Director Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala announced that the island will be eligible to borrow from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka -- (IBRD), an arm of the World Bank. World Bank Managing director Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (AFP PHOTO)

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## Anglo American plotting De Beers takeover

LONDON, England (AFP) -- Global miner Anglo American is considering a plan to take control of De Beers, the world's largest diamond company, The yesterday Times newspaper reported.

The London-based company, which has significant mining operations in South Africa, would do so by buying out the Oppenheimer family's stake, said the report, which cited sources in the British capital's City financial district.

Anglo American has a 45



percent shareholding in De Beers, with the Oppenheims holding 40 percent and the government of Botswana 15 percent.

The deal could cost Anglo American at least two billion pounds, the report said.

"Shareholders aren't happy with the minority investment. They want clarity either way, and the view of the directors is a positive one; that they would be interested in taking control," the broadsheet cited a banking source as saying.

## WikiLeaks founder sought as guest at Davos forum

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) - The head of the Davos economic forum said yesterday he would have liked WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to attend next month's summit of world political and business elites in the Swiss ski resort.

"I should invite him," Klaus Schwab, head of the World Economic Forum (WEF), said. "But it is not possible as he is not allowed to leave Britain."

Assange spent yesterday his third full day under "mansion arrest" at a friend's house in Britain while he fights extradition to Sweden to face questioning in connection of

allegations of sexual assault against two women.

"I will wait until Swedish justice clears him," Schwab said.

The 39-year-old Australian denies the charges against him and has vowed that his whistleblowing website will continue to publish secret US diplomatic cables, thousands of which it has already issued.

"WikiLeaks is the expression of a new reality," Schwab said. "The balance between the private sphere and transparency has been radically altered. Governments, companies and decision-makers must accept to find themselves per-

manently in a glass room."

"We will discuss this in Davos but our priority will be to draw the lessons and consequences of the financial crisis and debt," he added.

Schwab said 27 world leaders, including Russian President Dmitry Medvedev who will make the opening address, will take part in the forum which runs from January 26 to 30.

The annual meeting in the Swiss mountains was first held four decades ago and aims to bring leaders together to discuss the most pressing issues facing the world.

## The Philippines in uproar over error-filled peso bills

MANILA, The Philippines (AFP) - Geographically-challenged Philippine maps and a rare parrot with the wrong-coloured beak have perturbed the country after the central bank rolled out error-filled new editions of its peso bills.

The new-generation banknotes, rolled out earlier this month and containing the signature of President Benigno Aquino who took office this year, bombed spectacularly in the graphics department, critics say.

The reverse side of the new 500-peso (11 dollar) bill features a rare native bird, the blue-naped parrot, with its red beak incorrectly rendered in yellow and the tail feathers underneath coloured green instead of yellow.

A map on the bill -- which also carries portraits of Aquino's late parents -- mislocates Saint Paul's, a subterranean river that is designated as a UNESCO world heritage site.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

TURK	PINT	CRY
ORAN	ODER	HUE
SALE	LOSE	ANN
SLEEVE	TAMP	
LISP	TEENS	
DAM	ATES	TRIP
ERE	LARES	ODA
AIDE	RIME	NET
FLIRT	LEER	
TARO	SPONGE	
MOA	ABUT	GARY
ORT	MOLE	ERIE
TEE	PEER	REDS

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## Conan O'Brien vows 'hunger strike' if not aired in Finland

HELSINKI, Finland (AFP)—Some 100 Finns braved freezing winds in Helsinki Friday to demand that Conan O'Brien's new show be aired here, as the US talk show host joked about foregoing Finnish foods until it hit the airwaves.

"Arise my people, arise as one, and demand that my show appear in my beloved Finland!" cried O'Brien in a pre-recorded video which was shown at the rally.

O'Brien's new show "Conan" has not appeared in Finland, despite the great po-

pularity of his previous show "Late Night with Conan O'Brien".

O'Brien, addressing his fans against a Finnish flag as a backdrop, said: "No Finnish foods until I am on the air in your country!" and listed herring and blood sausage on the banned food list.

Rally organizer Alexandra Alexis, who helped pass out beer and gingerbread cookies at the demonstration, said video clips of the event would be shown on the Conan show next week.

## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals

Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommoda-



tions are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday

escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

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## Avant-garde rocker 'Captain Beefheart' dead at 69



WASHINGTON, (AFP) - Don Van Vliet, an avant-garde rocker who performed under the name "Captain Beefheart" and whose artistic influence dwarfed his popular appeal, has died at the age of 69.

Van Vliet died early Friday in northern California following a long battle with multiple sclerosis, according to the Michael Werner Art Gallery,

which exhibited his abstract paintings after he left music in the early 1980s.

As the gravel-voiced Captain Beefheart, Van Vliet adopted the wail of blues legend Howlin' Wolf and melded jazz, blues and rock into a surreal mix that was never widely popular but inspired scores of later artists.

The most famous and influential of his 12 studio albums was 1969's "Trout Mask Replica," which was produced by Frank Zappa, who Van Vliet befriended in high school.

Rolling Stone magazine rated it number 58 in its "500 Greatest Albums of All Time," and Van Vliet has been cited as an influence on Tom Waits, PJ Harvey, Franz Ferdinand, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Talking Heads.

"He was like the scout on a

wagon train," Waits told the Los Angeles Times on Friday.

"He was the one who goes ahead and shows the way.... He drew in the air with a burnt stick. He described the indescribable. He's an underground stream and a big yellow blimp."

Van Vliet was a notoriously



Don van Vliet's - lion coulored fish

demanding bandleader, and several musicians circulated through Captain Beefheart's Magic Band from the mid 1960s until the early 1980s.

For "Trout Mask Replica" he was said to have confined band members to a house for months on end and given them names like Zoot Horn Rollo and the Mascara Snake, in an atmosphere some of them later described as "cult-like."

"If it had been produced by any professional, famous producer... there could have been a number of suicides involved," Zappa said later, according to the BBC.

By the early 1980s Van Vliet had grown frustrated with the collaborative aspect of the music industry and left it to focus full-time on a successful career in abstract painting in which his works fetched high prices. "Part of why I stopped doing music was because it was too hard to control the other people I needed to play the stuff, and I'd had enough animal training," he told the Los Angeles Times in 1990.

"When it comes to art, I have a real streak of fascism. I want it to be exactly the way I conceive it, and if one line is changed it's like, 'Hey, the hell with it, I don't need it.'"

## S.Leone bans musical processions as rival groups clash

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AFP) - Sierra Leone's interior ministry has slapped a ban on street musical processions after supporters of the country's three top artists promoting new albums clashed in the capital this week.

Police said they were "ready to reinforce the ban" announced earlier after having to fire teargas at unruly crowds who smashed car windscreens and broke into shops as processions wound around the capital.

Traditionally Sierra Leonean artists based abroad, mostly the United States, return home to promote new albums over Christmas. With loudspeakers on trucks they make their way around the capital followed by huge crowds.

Police said the clashes broke out between supporters of the US-based bands Black Leo, Dry Eyed Crew and the Red Flag Movement.

"Seventy-eight of the 110 youths (arrested) appeared in court on charges of riotous conduct, disorderly behaviour, malicious damage and unlawful possession of offensive weapons and have been remanded at the maximum security Pademba prison after



the court appearance," the head of police media, Assistant Superintendent Ibrahim Samura, told AFP.

He said there were "ill-motivated youth groups using processions and rallies as cover to engage in robberies and other criminal activities."

Defending the ban, Interior Minister Musa Tarawali said, "our intervention is timely and appropriate. We have to protect the lives and property of people. Those who come here should not bring strange culture into our midst."

The president of the Cassette Sellers Association, Abubakarr Bangura, described the ban as "a catastrophe to the music industry in Sierra Leone at this point in time where business is supposed to boom."

## Lee Harvey Oswald's coffin sells for \$87,000

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) - The coffin in which Lee Harvey Oswald, the man charged with shooting president John F. Kennedy, was buried went under the hammer for over 87,000 dollars, the auction house which organized the sale said.

The pine coffin is partially water-damaged by the 18 years it spent in the ground before Oswald's body was exhumed in 1981 to lay to rest rumors that a lookalike Soviet agent was buried in his place.

The body -- confirmed as genuinely his -- was reburied in another casket, and the original was offered for sale for the first time, by the Nate D Sanders auction house in Los Angeles.

A spokeswoman declined to reveal the identity of the purchaser who paid 87,468 dollars for the casket.

According to the Dallas News, the coffin was sold by

Allen Baumgardner, a Fort Worth funeral home manager who had kept it after being present when Oswald's body was exhumed.

Oswald, charged with killing Kennedy on November 22, 1963, was himself shot two days later and buried on November 25, fueling conspiracy theories which still rage to this day.



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# Hopkins claims robbery as Pascal keeps WBC crown



Jean Pascal (R) lands a punch into Bernard Hopkins during the WBC Light Heavyweight World Championship at the Pepsi Coliseum in Quebec City. (AFP photo)

QUEBEC CITY (AFP) — Bernard Hopkins declared he was robbed of becoming the oldest major world champion in boxing history when he had to settle for a majority draw against Haitian-born Canadian Jean Pascal.

Pascal inflicted the first two knockdowns suffered by Hopkins in 16 years to keep his World Boxing Council light heavyweight crown before a sellout crowd at Le Colisee that booed the deadlocked verdict with the 45-year-old American.

After 12 rounds a US judge gave Hopkins a 114-112 victory while Canadian and Belgian judges scored the fight a draw by scores of 113-113 and 114-114 respectively.

Hopkins enjoyed an unbeaten 10-year reign as a world middleweight champion in a 22-year career while Pascal, 28, was only six years old when Hopkins turned professional in 1988.

The veteran, who turns 46 on January 15, would have broken the age mark set by George Foreman, who was 10 months past his 45th birthday when he knocked out fellow American Michael Moorer in 1994 for the WBA and IBF heavyweight titles.

Instead, Hopkins missed his chance at history as his record went to 51-5 with two

drawn.

"This was sure enough robbery. And this one hurts the sport," Hopkins said.

"One reason fighters from the States don't like fighting outside the country is stuff like this. I know I won the fight."

Despite not taking the victory, Pascal made his fourth successful title defense, seeing his record move to 26-1-1. He dismissed Hopkins' complaints, saying, "We have fair judges in Canada."

"I believe I won the fight," Pascal said. "I did enough to win the fight. I dropped him twice. That wasn't my best fight. It's not that he's that good. He's just a tough guy to box."

Pascal sent Hopkins down in the first and third rounds. The American complained that he was struck behind the head on the first and slipped on the other but neither plea was answered.

"It was back of the head. I wasn't even hurt. I probably won that round they called a knockdown," Hopkins said.

"To put up a gallant performance like I did after a back of the head knockdown, where I had the guy beat up and he was holding, that's not right. I dominated the fight. I had more punches landed. I landed more shots. He got in some good shots. But I took

him to school."

Pascal said he would have no problem giving Hopkins a rematch.

"Of course I'm not happy. I am a champion," Pascal said. "But I am the world champion and I did enough to win that fight. I would have no problem to fight him again. Anytime."

Pascal sent his supporters into a frenzy in the final seconds of the first round when a right to the side of the head of an attacking Hopkins sent the American to the canvas.

It was the first time since 1994 that Hopkins had been knocked down. The second time came far sooner.

Pascal sent Hopkins to his knees with 30 seconds remaining in the third round, the veteran going down again under left hooks to the head and chest.

## NBA Magic add Arenas, Richardson, Turkoglu in trade

ORLANDO, Florida (AFP) — Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard gained a new supporting cast Saturday with hopes two major trades will lift the NBA club alongside Miami and Boston as an Eastern Conference title contender.

The Magic, 16-9 but losers in five of their past six games, added Turkish forward Hedo Turkoglu and playmaker Jason Richardson from the Phoenix Suns and controversial long-distance shooter Gilbert Arenas from the Washington Wizards.

"We needed a little bit more punch," Magic president Otis Smith said. "All those guys coming in have an ability to move the ball. After looking at our team through 25 games, we were missing a little something. I thought change was needed."

Orlando traded Rashard Lewis to the Wizards for Arenas, best known for being banished for 50 games last season for bringing guns into the Wizards locker room and faking an injury to avoid playing in a pre-season game last October.

The Magic, trying to entice fans to their new 18,500-seat arena, have fallen from first to fourth in the Eastern Conference, with the Miami Heat, 20-8, and Boston Celtics, 21-4, surging on double-digit winning streaks in December.



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## Tendulkar adds to legend and defies South Africa



Sachin Tendulkar of India plays a defensive shot during day 4 of the 1st Test match between South Africa and India

CENTURION (AFP) - The legend of Sachin Tendulkar continued to grow on Sunday as the Indian batting maestro hit his 50th Test century and shared a remarkable partnership with captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa at SuperSport Park.

It was almost certainly not enough to save his team from defeat, with India finishing the day on 454 for eight in their second innings, still 30 runs short of making South Africa bat again.

But it was a heroic effort which salvaged the reputation of an Indian side which for much of the first three days seemed likely to suffer a humiliating trouncing.

Tendulkar (107 not out) and Dhoni (90) put on 172

for the seventh wicket and defied the South African bowlers for a minute short of three hours.

It took a special delivery from fast bowler Dale Steyn to end the stand shortly before bad light and an approaching thunderstorm ended play for the day.

Steyn produced a vicious bouncer which Dhoni could only fend to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher. In the next over Harbhajan Singh edged left-arm spinner Paul Harris to slip, almost certainly ending any hopes of a miracle reprieve for India, although more storms are forecast for the final day on Monday.

South Africa seemed set for an early win when they took four wickets before lunch, with a new ball available 13 balls after the break.

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## Vonn regal again at Val d'Isere



**Lindsey Vonn of the USA takes 1st place during the Audi FIS Alpine Ski World Cup Women's Super Combined on Sunday**

VAL D'ISERE (AFP) - US champion Lindsey Vonn won the super-combined World Cup race on Sunday at Val d'Isere to add to her downhill win at the venue on Saturday.

Three-time World Cup champion Vonn landed her third win of the season after coming ahead of Austrian pair Elisabeth Goergl and Nicole Hosp.

The back-to-back wins

have allowed Vonn to regain the overall season standings lead with 581 points - just three points over her German rival Maria Riesch, who could only manage fifth on the day.

"I am very happy with my weekend," said Vonn.

"My goal was to ski as well as possible. The conditions were very difficult with all the fresh snow and the or-

ganisers worked fantastically. These two wins are the best Christmas present I could have imagined. I had not trained for slalom much since Aspen. I was not at all sure how I would get on.

"I was very nervous at the start but I said to myself, 'okay, do your best.'

"I am not really keeping an eye on the overall standings - it's too early in the season," added Vonn.

"This weekend certainly helps points-wise but there are still plenty of races to run."

On the fate of close friend Riesch, Vonn said: "I think she was a bit disappointed today - but that's ski racing. I am looking forward to spending Christmas with her."

Vonn, the Olympic champion, started with a bang as she set the fastest time in the morning super-G run and then drove home her overall superiority in setting the seventh-best time in the ensuing slalom to pocket her 36th career victory and pull off a repeat of last year's triumph at the same resort.

Val d'Isere holds no fears for Vonn, who has now won seven races here - including two world titles.

Although they missed out on top spot the Austrian contingent showed its strength in depth with four finishers inside the top six.

One of the favourites, Sweden's Anja Paerson, did not finish the super-G as she was penalised for a mistake.

Goergl meanwhile said: "I tried my best and I raced a good slalom. I was also happy with the super-G as I've not done many of them for a while because of my knee so it was a good test. I was happy overall."

Hosp said for her part she was pleased to make it to the podium. "I hadn't managed that in some time."

## Van Bommel expects to stay with Bayern

BERLIN (AFP) - Bayern Munich captain Mark van Bommel said Sunday he expects to remain as skipper of the German champions and played down rumours of a transfer to Bundesliga rivals Wolfsburg in January's winter break.

The 33-year-old Dutchman is out of contract next June and speculation is rife here he is set to switch to Wolfsburg, coached by ex-England boss Steve McClaren, to bolster their midfield.

But Van Bommel said he does not expect Sunday's Bundesliga match at Stuttgart

to be his final German league game for Bayern.

"Anything is possible in football, but it would certainly be something extraordinary if the captain left during the winter break," van Bommel told German daily Die Welt.

"I do not have to leave Bayern, I am very happy as captain of the club."

But the Dutchman admitted the decision may be out of his hands with Bayern reported to be set to poach Hoffenheim midfielder Luiz Gustavo during the customary winter break which started Sunday.

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## Lochte ends on golden note in Dubai

DUBAI (AFP) - Ryan Lochte doubled his gold medal haul to six and took his overall medal tally to a record 21 on the final session at the short course world championships here Sunday.

The American set a new championship best time of 1:46.68 in the 200m backstroke, followed by an all-out effort in the 100m individual medley in a time of 50.86, meaning that Lochte achieved a gold medal in every individual event he contested.

He was also part of the victorious 4x100 medley relay team that signed off the championships with a final

gold, bringing the US medal tally to 25 overall, with 12 golds.

Lochte smashed two world records earlier in the meet in imperious fashion, but his punishing schedule eventually took its toll and the swimmer admitted to feeling tired.

"I think I could have gone a lot faster (in the 200m backstroke). I gave it my best shot," he said.

"In the 100m individual medley I just went for it. I felt it a lot in my legs after the 200m backstroke, but it's around the same time I went in the semi, so I'll take it.

## Els wins South African Open

DURBAN (AFP) - Ernie Els held off great rival Retief Goosen to win the South Africa Open championship by a single stroke at Durban Country Club here on Sunday.

They finished with a six-under 66 each over the 6157-metre layout in an enthralling head-to-head clash between the top two South African golfers of modern times.

Goosen from northern city Polokwane shared the lead

after the first round, Johannesburg-born Els led by two strokes after the second and one after the third and was always ahead over the final 18 holes.

Just one shot ahead eight holes into the second of two rounds played Sunday, Els sank a birdie putt at nine to turn with a two-shot advantage over his long-time domestic and international opponent.

As the second oldest na-

tional golf championship after the British Open turned 100 this week, it was fitting that locals occupied the top places with luckless Louis Oosthuizen (66) third and Charl Schwartzel (67) fourth.

Englishman Robert Rock (67) and French teenager Romain Wattel (68) shared fifth place and German Alexander Cejka and another Frenchman, Victor Riu, came next on the leaderboard.

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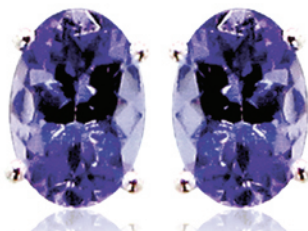


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